

Message

From: Deamer, Eileen [deamer.eileen@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/22/2019 8:32:21 PM
To: Short, Thomas [short.thomas@epa.gov]
CC: Borries, Samuel [borries.samuel@epa.gov]; Ballotti, Doug [ballotti.douglas@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: WTTW Chicago Public TV (Alex Ruppenthal) [rec'd 2/22] -OPEN - Seeking comment on letter today's letter to RA from Duckworth, Durbin, Kelly urging EPA "take immediate action" on Watco DDL, 3PM TODAY

In our call yesterday, Sam said they met with the city of Chicago. Notes from the call that Sam Borries was on: **Senator Durbin's staff requested an update on whether EPA had met with WATCO – EPA replied we met with WATCO yesterday for a status update. We've received preliminary data for Dec and Jan which we will post by the end of the week. There is a downward trend. Dec. .254; Jan .218 which are both under the health screening level. The company has taken a number of steps to reduce emissions.**

Q: What kind of steps? EPA: The company is limiting mostly fugitive emissions; enclosing operations, dust control, etc. EPA is still in discussions on ways to do even more.

Q: We sent a letter the end of Jan, which urged compliance and asked for soil testing... A: EPA currently has a draft response which you should be seeing shortly. EPA is looking into doing some assessment of the area around the facility; met with the City of Chicago which plans to do some sampling in parks, parkways, fields, roads. EPA will be doing some sampling of residential yards. Both would begin in Spring when the ground is not frozen.

Q: We heard the city would be making an announcement? A: EPA has not heard that; could be their sampling plans which have not been announced yet?

Overall – the Senator's staff seemed pleased with progress report. Plans to share information with Sen. Duckworth's office staff who could not attend.

From: Short, Thomas
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2019 2:30 PM
To: Nam, Ed <nam.ed@epa.gov>; Furey, Eileen <furey.eileen@epa.gov>; Thiede, Kurt <thiede.kurt@epa.gov>; Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov>
Cc: Stepp, Cathy <stepp.cathy@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Deamer, Eileen <deamer.eileen@epa.gov>; Singer, Joshua <Singer.Joshua@epa.gov>; Arcaute, Francisco <Arcaute.Francisco@epa.gov>; Ballotti, Doug <ballotti.douglas@epa.gov>; Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>; El-Zein, Jason <el-zein.jason@epa.gov>
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I don't know if we've already begun coordinating with the city but certainly will want to coordinate with the city when they sample. We obviously want to be sure they sample methods and approach are consistent with what we'll be doing.

From: Nam, Ed
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2019 2:12 PM
To: Furey, Eileen <furey.eileen@epa.gov>; Thiede, Kurt <thiede.kurt@epa.gov>; Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov>
Cc: Stepp, Cathy <stepp.cathy@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Deamer, Eileen <deamer.eileen@epa.gov>; Singer, Joshua <Singer.Joshua@epa.gov>; Arcaute, Francisco <Arcaute.Francisco@epa.gov>; Short, Thomas <short.thomas@epa.gov>

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Working on it. We were planning on posting the Jan data today, which shows decreasing ambient measurements, however we don't have the Met data ready yet. What we can do is publish the average Mn data for January today and publish the met data early next week. Kurt if you are ok with this, then we can tell WTTW that the average Jan measurement was 0.218 ug/m³. (We told Sen Duckworth's staff this yesterday).

I'm adding Tom: Are you comfortable with us saying that we are coordinating with the city of Chicago to conduct soil sampling in the Spring?

Thanks

-Ed

From: Furey, Eileen

Sent: Friday, February 22, 2019 1:54 PM

To: Thiede, Kurt <thiede.kurt@epa.gov>; Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov>

Cc: Stepp, Cathy <stepp.cathy@epa.gov>; Nam, Ed <nam.ed@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Deamer, Eileen <deamer.eileen@epa.gov>; Singer, Joshua <Singer.Joshua@epa.gov>; Arcaute, Francisco <Arcaute.Francisco@epa.gov>

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Yes, we have some encouraging numbers we can share. We will draft a concise update to the information below.

Eileen L. Furey
Deputy Director
Air and Radiation Division
U.S. EPA Region 5
(312) 886-7950

From: Thiede, Kurt

Sent: Friday, February 22, 2019 1:50 PM

To: Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov>

Cc: Stepp, Cathy <stepp.cathy@epa.gov>; Nam, Ed <nam.ed@epa.gov>; Furey, Eileen <furey.eileen@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Deamer, Eileen <deamer.eileen@epa.gov>; Singer, Joshua <Singer.Joshua@epa.gov>; Arcaute, Francisco <Arcaute.Francisco@epa.gov>

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Anything more recent we can add?

Kurt Thiede
Chief of Staff
EPA Region 5

Sent from my iPhone...please excuse my typos.

On Feb 22, 2019, at 1:46 PM, Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov> wrote:

MOST RECENT WATCO STATEMENT (that I could find...)

Since 2014, EPA has been investigating fugitive dust and manganese air issues at several facilities on the Southeast side of Chicago, including S.H. Bell, Watco and NASCO. EPA staff will continue to inspect each of these Chicago facilities to confirm each company is complying with federal and state air requirements.

On May 15, 2018, EPA issued an information request to Watco requiring installation of air monitors measuring particulate matter less than 10 microns (PM10) and metals, including manganese.

On September 14, 2018, Watco installed and began operating one air monitor at its facility. Watco has now submitted six weeks of monitoring data to EPA. The six-week average manganese concentration measured by the monitor is 0.416 µg/m³. The minimal risk level (MRL) set by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) for manganese is 0.3 µg/m³. Exposure to a level above the MRL does not mean that adverse health effects will occur.

EPA has posted all of the monitoring data today on EPA's Southeast Chicago website associated with Watco (<https://www.epa.gov/il/watco-terminal-and-port-services>) with the latest background information and provide links to the filter-based monitoring data and meteorological data for download.

EPA is committed to investigating sources of fugitive dust and manganese in Southeast Chicago, including conducting inspections and issuing information requests for air monitoring under the Clean Air Act.

Anne Rowan, Chief
News Media & Intergovernmental Relations Section
Office of External Communications
U.S. EPA Region 5, Chicago
rowan.anne@epa.gov
312-353-9391

From: Rowan, Anne

Sent: Friday, February 22, 2019 1:41 PM

To: Stepp, Cathy <stepp.cathy@epa.gov>; Thiede, Kurt <thiede.kurt@epa.gov>; Nam, Ed <nam.ed@epa.gov>; Furey, Eileen <furey.eileen@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>

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Ruppenthal asked EPA to comment on today's letter from three members of congress urging the agency to "take immediate action" to stop Watco from releasing unsafe levels of manganese into the environment on Chicago's SE Side.

<https://www.duckworth.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/19.02.22%20-%20Letter%20to%20EPA%20Watco%20CAA.pdf>

His deadline is at 3 PM today.

Alex Ruppenthal *Chicago Tonight*, wttw
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